

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

July 31, 2006

Secretary Mike Johanns
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

RE: Request for Natural Disaster Declaration for Bighorn County

Dear Secretary Johanns:

On July 26, 2006 I received a request from the Bighorn County Board of Commissioners to petition the Secretary of Agriculture for a Natural Disaster Declaration for Bighorn County. Bighorn County has experienced the following events, which may be ongoing, in the previous 90 days:

Drought
Fire
Hail
Excessive Heat

Hot Winds
Insects
Late Freezing Temperatures

These events have negatively impacted the county in the following ways:

Destruction of homes
Loss of livestock
Loss of fences

Springs drying-up
Loss of stock reservoir usage
Critical reductions in range forage

A copy of this letter will be sent to the State Farm Service Agency office so they may begin to compile the necessary damage assessment information. Your prompt review and approval of this request will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger
Nancy Peterson, Department of Agriculture
General Randall Mosley, Department of Military Affairs
Dave Maser, Disaster & Emergency Services
Randy Johnson, Farm Services Agency
Jesse Aber, Department of Natural Resource & Conservation